



City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Ward 4 Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC)
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive

Meeting Summary

ATTENDEES

Ward 4 CDRC Members

Rick Hanson, Civano Neighborhood Association (NA)
Keith Miller, Mesquite Ranch NA
Ken Moyes, Rita Ranch NA
Bob Small, Civano NA
Michael Tone, Rita Ranch NA
Al Wiruth, Rita Ranch NA
Joe Yee, Old Spanish Trail NA

City of Tucson

Teresa Smith, Ward 4

Pima County Department of Transportation

Dave Zaleski, Project Manager

TDOT Staff and Consultants

M.J. Dillard, TDOT Project Manager
Jan Gordley, Gordley Group
Lori Lantz, Gordley Group

Guests

Esther Frohwein, Rancho Reserve

MATERIALS

- Agenda
- Construction contact sheet
- Implementation plan map
- CDRC neighborhoods map
- Meeting evaluation form
- Comment form
- Houghton Corridor Fact sheet
- April 2, 2013, Ward 4 CDRC meeting summary

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING PROTOCOL

- Lori Lantz opened the meeting and asked all present to introduce themselves. Jan Gordley thanked everyone for coming and reviewed the rules of the meeting. Rick Hanson thanked M.J. Dillard for project updates and diligence in taking care of Civano and Mesquite Ranch.

PROJECT UPDATES

M.J. Dillard provided updates on the Houghton Road Corridor projects.

M.J. Dillard reviewed the implementation plan for the Houghton Road Corridor. The purpose of improving the 13-mile corridor is to increase capacity for cross-town traffic.

- Irvington Road to Valencia Road (segment 2) is complete.
- Broadway Boulevard Intersection is complete and Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street (segment 3) should begin construction in January.
- Houghton Road Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad (segment 4) design is at 100 percent complete.
- Union Pacific Railroad to Interstate 10 (segment 5) design is at 90% complete.
- Anticipated construction start for segments 4 and 5 is April 2015, depending on funding.
- CDRC members expressed concern regarding current problems with traffic backing up over the bridge. Dave Zaleski noted that Arizona Department of Transportation is working to expedite the traffic interchange to alleviate these problems.
- Once segments 4 and 5 are done, that will complete the Houghton Road Corridor improvements from I-10 to Pantano Wash.
- CDRC members asked about the speed limit of 45 mph when many are driving 55 mph. In addition, speed limits change across the corridor. To increase the speed limit, barriers, curbs and other safety features would have to be added. Once it is complete, the whole corridor will be 45 mph.
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M.J. Dillard reviewed Irvington Road to Valencia Road landscaping status.

- Landscaping seeding has been done for erosion and dust control on any bare areas. Monsoon rains made grasses grow rapidly. Weed whacking and pre-emergent will be used to control the growth.
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Dave Zaleski reviewed plans for the Houghton Road Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad.

- The bridge is a Pima County project with funding from Regional Transportation Authority and the City, and additional federal funding. The project should be ready to bid for construction in June 2015.
- The completed bridge will have two three-lane structures, one for each direction of travel. The northbound segment will be built just east of the existing bridge. Once that is complete, two-way traffic will be routed over the new bridge, while the old bridge is torn down and the structure for southbound travel completed. The goal is to maintain two-way traffic during construction.

- Since this is a federally funded project, art is not mandated, however the concrete form liner can utilize a wave pattern similar to the Houghton Corridor art railing designs. Paint colors similar to the art rails can be used for fencing.
- Bat boxes are being tested to accommodate bats that will be displaced by bridge construction.

M.J. Dillard discussed the Dec. 8 open house.

Art:

- The artist team of Simon Donovan, Ben Olmstead and Lauri Slenning has been chosen by the artist selection committee to develop art concepts for the Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street segment. They will be at the open house to show examples of their past work and collect input on art concepts from the public. Ward 4 CDRC member Rudy Lopez is on the selection committee.
- This will be an opportunity to review art concepts and start thinking ahead for art projects in the Rita Ranch area.

Street Lighting Policy:

- City of Tucson Department of Transportation is required to provide street lighting for safety. In the past, the decision of whether to install streetlights in each suburban and rural neighborhood was determined and sometimes funded by the residents. Now there are gaps in the City's lighting system that increase liability.
- The new City of Tucson policy going forward is to provide lighting at intersections and along major transportation corridors, including Houghton Road.
- New specifications for street lighting include LED directional lighting in the yellow range, which improves visibility and is more cost-efficient than the old sodium vapor lights, but has less scattered light to affect the night skies.
- TDOT staff will be available at the public meeting to further explain and discuss the new street lighting policy.
- Ward 4 CDRC members are encouraged to attend the Dec. 8 meeting to help discuss and explain the new street lighting policy.

PARKING LOT

There were no additions to the Parking Lot.

- Intersection of Rita Road/Houghton east side of greenway (drainage ditch)
- Landscaping items – Valencia to I-10
- Schedule of light pole replacement/sidewalks – Old Vail
- Southern segment plans alignment
- Timeline for monument walls at Rita Ranch
- Homeowners' brick wall between Rita Road and Old Vail
- Art process for Rita Road segment
- UPRR bridge update

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7 p.m.